Government of
Saskatchewan

Annual Report

Saskatchewan
Social Services

1986-87

Foreword

Annual Report 1986-87

This annual report summarizes the purposes and performance of the Department of Social Services during the fiscal year ended March 31, 1987.

It is required by provision of *The Department of Social Services Act,* which states:

"The minister shall, in accordance with *The Tabling of Documents Act,* submit to the Lieutenant Governor in Council an annual report respecting the work performed by the department."

The Report is divided into four basic sections:

- introductory and organizational information
- public programs and services
- internal support services, and
- fiscal addendum

A copy of the Report is available from:

Saskatchewan Social Services
1920 Broad Street
Regina, Saskatchewan
S4P 3V6

Minister's Transmittal

Honourable Frederick W. Johnson
Lieutenant Governor of the
Province of Saskatchewan

May It Please Your Honour:

I hereby respectfully submit the Annual Report of the Department of Social Services for the fiscal year ended March 31, 1987.

Grant Schmidt
Minister of Social Services

Office of the Minister of Social Services
Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan

Deputy Minister's Transmittal

Honourable Grant Schmidt
Minister of Social Services
Regina, Saskatchewan

Sir:

I have the honour to present to you herewith the Annual Report for the Department of Social Services respecting the fiscal year ended March 31, 1987.

Stan Sojonky

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Mission and Mandate

The Mission

The mission of the Department of Social Services is to provide caring and competent service to people in need.

The Mandate

The mandate of the Department of Social Services during the year under review was to:

- protect children in cases of abuse, neglect or abandonment;
- facilitate substitute care for children and youth;
- provide custody and alternative residential and community services for young offenders;
- foster independent living among persons with physical or mental disabilities;
- facilitate community-based social services and related initiatives;
- provide financial support and related services to persons and families who were unable to provide for themselves; and,
- promote re-entry into the work force for persons able to be independent of financial support.

Program Overview

The major program areas administered by the Department of Social Services during the year were:

- developmental, residential and institutional services for persons mentally handicapped or physically disabled;
- protection and alternative care for children;
- child day care;
- substitute care for youth displaced through personal or family problems;
- Court, custodial, rehabilitative and community alternative services for young offenders;
- non-governmental, provincial or community-based social services funding and management support;
- counselling, assessment, training, education, specialized vocational rehabilitation, work preparation, job creation and placement, for employable recipients of social assistance;
- general social assistance and specialized income supplementation for low-income families and senior citizens;
- information and coordination respecting programs serving senior citizens of Saskatchewan.

These programs were delivered by the department either:

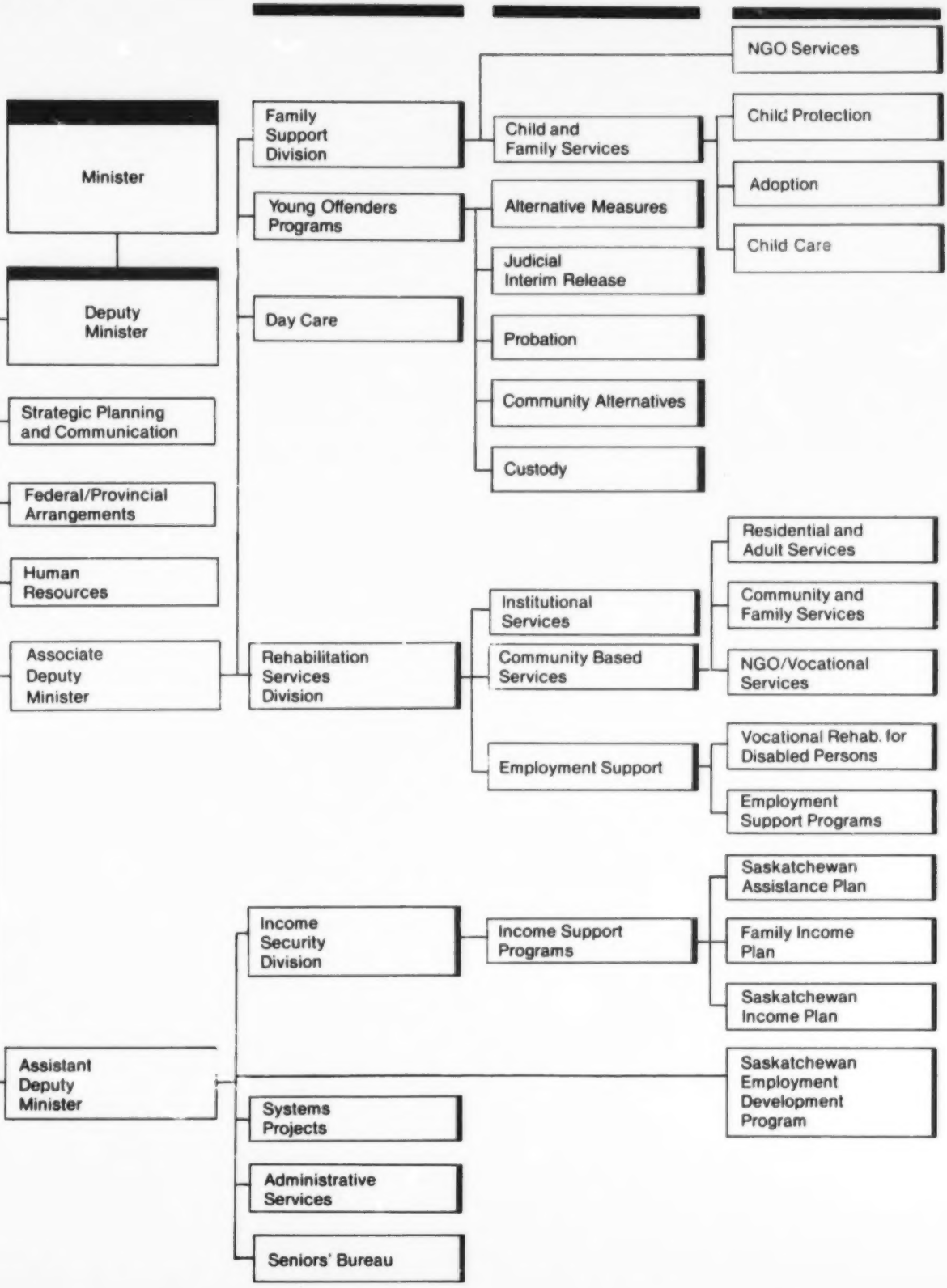
- directly, through its central and/or regional operations in many Saskatchewan communities, or
- indirectly, by way of financial and program supports provided to community-based, non-governmental service organizations across the province.

Highlights

Highlights of the year included:

- increased emphasis on administrative efficiency within Income Security programs;
- job creation and training programs for social assistance recipients continued to provide new opportunities for this group;
- a new *Saskatchewan Income Plan Act* was introduced. As well, a $15 increase in SIP payments was provided effective January 1987;
- further development of programs and resources associated with provincial responsibilities under the federal *Young Offenders Act*;
- a child protection reporting and investigative protocol for the involvement of school systems was issued;
- a $20 per space per month operating grant was introduced to assist with ongoing costs associated with operating a day care centre.

Organization



Child and Family Services

The department is responsible for child protection, single parent services, adoption, foster care and services for youth.

Child Protection Services

The department remained responsible for investigating all reports of children being in need of protection for reasons of neglect, abuse and abandonment. Services were provided to parents declaring their own need for assistance with serious parenting problems. Child Protection Caseworkers were responsible for ensuring the safety of children in these situations and for arranging for other specialized family services.

All initial involvements of families with the program are tabulated annually, on the basis of the calendar year. Statistics for 1986 were:

• physical neglect	272
• physical abuse	189
• sexual abuse	196
• emotional abuse	24
• parent/child conflict	228
• family support services	711

In addition to the above, 860 cases were investigated. With short-term services provided, clients were referred elsewhere for service or it was concluded that children in the families involved were not in need of protection or referral. There were 2,589 cases of all types being served at March 31, 1987.

Significant development occurred during the year in the child abuse segment of the protection program. The department was involved with the various police services in development of a coordinated service approach for child protection and criminal investigations. The goal of this was more efficient intervention that would cover the relevant facts only once, rather than having children and parents repeat their information. In addition, a reporting and investigative protocol for the involvement of school systems was jointly issued by the Ministers of Education and Social Services. These guidelines gave direction to educators on how to report child protection matters and what to expect in terms of investigation and follow-up information.

The goals of the child protection program were to encourage self-referral and to work co-operatively with parents to resolve problems and reduce risk for the children involved. To this end, there was a significant emphasis placed on working by agreement with parents, where this was possible. Resorting to apprehension of children was reserved for situations where less serious actions would not ensure protection of a child.

Family Support Services

A number of in-home support services were available to help families resolve problems: homemaker services, parent aide, parent education or lifeskills training, emergency babysitting, recreation fees, assessment, counselling or therapy, including any required travel costs.

In cases where a child required out of home placement and the parent(s) agreed with this, the department sought voluntary agreements rather than initiating Court proceedings. There were 330 contractual agreements between the Minister of Social Services and parents for temporary child care at year end. In these cases, children were usually placed in foster homes while conditions requiring these placements were resolved.

Child Care

Children and youth received a range of services in resources which included foster homes, specialized treatment homes, group homes and residential treatment. These services were provided through a combination of departmentally-operated facilities and direct funding, grants or fee-for-service agreements with non-governmental organizations. The intensity of service varied in accord with the need of the child, extending from children who required treatment to youth who required semi-independent living resources. However, 80 per cent of children were cared for in foster homes.

Foster parents and other care givers were responsible for the day-to-day care of children while the Minister remained legal guardian and retained responsibility for planning and financial support.

Departmental programs have been developed to meet the varying needs of children and youth in care through voluntary agreements and Court Orders.

Child and Family Services

There was an increase in the number of children coming into care during the year. At March 31, 1987 there were 2,236 in care compared with 2,027 a year earlier. The number of foster homes slightly declined from 732 to 719 during the same period.

Foster parents and other child care providers were often asked to care for children and youth who had undergone difficult life experiences. This included severe neglect and physical or sexual abuse. These children may exhibit emotional and behavioural problems. To help meet their needs and assist foster parents, the department provided assessment services, counselling and other supports.

A province-wide Child in Care Review was completed by a review team composed of departmental staff and representatives of the Saskatchewan Foster Parent Association. By means of meetings with social workers and foster parents, questionnaires, interviews and file reviews, the team was to assess how well existing services were meeting the needs of children coming into departmental care.

This evaluation of needs and services and a number of resulting recommendations were compiled in The Child in Care Report, to be presented to the Minister in April of 1987.

Children in Care by Authority of The Family Services Act March 31, 1987

Apprehend (matter before the Court)	563
Section 8	380
Section 9	74
Temporary Ward	251
Permanent Ward	921
Section 44 Agreements	47
Total	2,236

Definitions:

Section 8: voluntary agreement with parents for care

Section 9: agreement for service, 16 and 17 year olds

Temporary Wards: committed to care for one year or less

Permanent Wards: committed to care until age of majority

Section 44: service for previous wards 18 to 21 years so that education might continue

Single Parents

The department provided information, referral, counselling and other pre-and post-natal support services to prospective and single parents. This was a pregnancy counselling service designed to help young prospective or single mothers to make informed decisions about the future of a child. Fathers and grandparents were occasionally involved in planning for children.

Relinquishment

Workers provided relinquishment services involving voluntary agreements and Court commitals for parents who decided to give up children. Workers made arrangements for adoption proceedings following commitals.

Teen Parents

The Teen Parent Programs were provided in most areas of the province. Several of these were non-governmental programs.

These services included individual counselling, group meetings to teach specific parenting skills, provide information about the development needs of infants, and counselling with respect to budgets, education and employment.

Where the support of the extended familes was lacking, teen parents were often matched with volunteers for support.

The objectives of Teen Parent Program services were:

- to quickly identify the young mother who required increased services or whose infant might require protection;
- to promote normal growth and development of infants who might be at risk;
- to increase parenting skills and the knowledge and understanding of young mothers in areas of child care and development; and
- to assist in maintaining the young family unit and prevent children from coming into care of the Minister.

Child and Family Services

Adoption Program

The department recruited adoptive families who were involved in home studies, including a series of interviews and meetings designed to assess applicants and prepare them for the role of adoptive parenting. The department also provided support services to adoptive families following the placement of children.

A total of 134 children were placed for adoption during the year under review.

Because there were more families waiting to adopt healthy Caucasian infants than there were infants available, the department had a provincial waiting list of applicants. At March 31, 1987, 109 home studies were in progress with applicants, 118 approved adoption homes were awaiting placement and there were 778 applicants on the waiting list. During the year, 72 Caucasian infants were placed for adoption.

Children with special needs because of age, handicaps, sibling groups or other factors were placed for adoption through the Resources for the Adoption of Children Program. There was a waiting list for placement under this Program. At March 31, 1987 there were 54 approved homes waiting for children, 80 home studies underway, and 183 applicants waiting. During the year 62 children with special needs were placed for adoption.

Children Placed For Adoption by Age Group in 1986/87	
0 - 6 months	86
6 months - 12 years	48
Total	134

Post Adoption Intermediary Services Requests Registered in 1986/87	
Non-identifying Information Only	412
Search and Reunion	
. . . adult adoptees	235
. . . adult former wards	18
. . . birth parents	107
. . . birth family (other)	33

Cases Completed in 1986/87	
Reunion effected (4 mutual)	134
Search successful but birth parent refused contact	50
Request withdrawn	60
Independent search successful	16
Birth parent deceased	19
Unable to locate	7

Private and Step-parent Adoption

Adoption placements may also be made by the natural parents of children. The department facilitiated these adoptions by conducting home studies, presenting case histories to the Courts, and preparing other documents necessary for an adoption order to be granted.

The department facilitated step-parent adoptions and assisted parents to prepare and submit materials for Court purposes. Again, the department provided a history of the case for the court if requested.

During the year, 77 private adoptions were finalized. There were 270 step-parent adoptions finalized.

Post-adoption Intermediary Services

The department provided search and reunion services to adult adoptees and former wards with members of their birth families. These services were offered upon request of adult adoptees or former wards, with reunions occurring by consent of parties being sought. Requests from members of birth families were acted on only if there was a corresponding request from adult adoptees or former wards.

Adult parties to adoption or wardship were, upon request, provided with non-identifying background information.

At March 31, 1987, there were 223 cases active in the search and reunion process and 136 requests waiting in the registry.

Regional Services

To ensure that the department's services were accessible as possible to the public, many were available through regional operations.

Child Protection

Reports of child neglect, abuse or abandonment were investigated by Child Protection Case Workers. In most cases of abuse and neglect, children in need of protection could remain in or return to their natural family settings.

Family assessment, counselling or income support, or referral to alternative therapy, educational, parent aide, homemaking or transportation assistance services, were often provided to reduce risk to children and usually to prevent their coming into care.

In some cases, children came into the care of the Minister.

Child Care

Children and youth in care of the Minister yet able to function in an alternative family environment, were placed in foster homes. The department retained financial responsibility and legal guardianship. Foster parents provided day-to-day care.

Child Care Workers provided counselling, referral and other support services for both children and foster parents. Emphasis continued during the year on maintaining and recruiting foster homes.

For some children with special needs such as physical or mental disabilities or emotional disturbance and for difficult youth, the department provided specialized services and facilitated care through alternative departmental or community-based residential resources.

Adoption

Parents seeking to place children for adoption could receive assistance with completing the necessary documents.

Persons seeking to adopt children were assessed through an adoption home study, involving a series of interviews and meetings designed to prepare them for the role of parenting.

Single Parents

Single parents or parents-to-be were provided with information, counselling and other pre- and post-natal support services and/or referred to another agency. Support services included orientation to parenting, consisting of visits to teach parenting skills and infant stimulation technique. Counselling on education, training, employment and family relations was also available.

Youth

District offices provided special services to youth under a range of programs. In addition to protection and residential supports for parents and teens in conflict, support was also provided to unmarried teen parents and extended educational services to youth who had been wards of the Minister.

Regional services respecting young offenders included alternative measures, judicial interim release, probation, community alternatives, and both open and secure custody.

Rehabilitation

Regional services were available for persons mentally disabled or physically handicapped, depending on personal needs. These helped adults or children and their parents to adjust to disabilities, minimize the affects of handicapping conditions and make informed decisions about educational, residential and lifestyle needs.

Workers also assisted community-based, non-governmental service agencies with program design, implementation and management.

Income Support

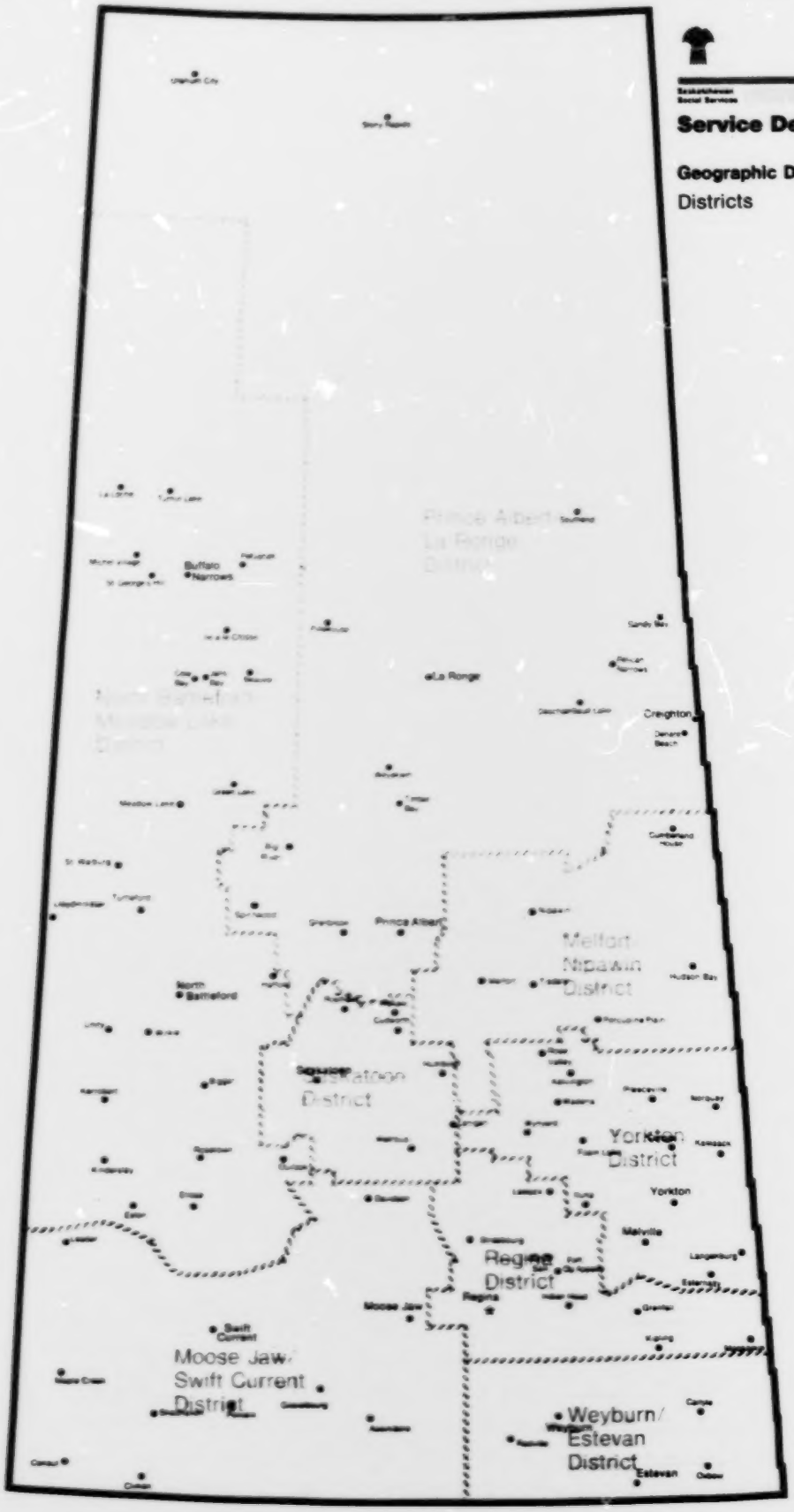
People who, for various reasons such as chronic disability, ill health or inability to secure employment, did not have sufficient funds to meet basic needs, could apply for financial assistance under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. Assistance was provided to meet the costs of food, shelter, utilities, clothing and other necessities. In some cases, clients qualified for supplementary health services provided through the Department of Health. Other counselling and referral services were provided to lessen or remove the causes of dependency.

District offices were responsible for determining eligibility and administering financial assistance to clients. Income security services were delivered within the cities of Prince Albert and Moose Jaw by local social services offices operated by these communities.

Saskatchewan
Social Services

Service Delivery

Geographic Distribution
Districts



Regional Services

Training, Education and Employment

In addition to income support, Assessment/Placement Workers provided certain employment services. Social assistance clients who were able to work were offered specialized vocational or general training, educational and work opportunities, to help them gain or regain self-reliance.

Regional offices of the Saskatchewan Employment Development Program worked with employers in the non-governmental, municipal and business sectors to create job opportunities for employable clients.

Emergency Services

In the event of a large scale disaster affecting large numbers of people, the department's district offices would have been asked to respond with provisions which, under such circumstances, would have included support for food, clothing, lodging or other personal services. The department co-operates with emergency measures organizations toward this end.

Non-governmental Services

Consistent with its mandate to provide a broad range of services, the department worked closely with many non-governmental organizations and service providers. Funding was provided to these groups and agencies for the provision of services to departmental clients and families.

This funding took the form of a grant, a fee for each service provided or an operating subsidy.

The provincial and community-based organizations and agencies involved recognized that the delivery of services represented a partnership with the government for the benefit of clients.

Crisis Intervention

After-hour crisis intervention services were provided by the Mobile Crisis Services, Regina, the Saskatoon Crisis Intervention Service and the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative.

Sexual assault services were provided by the Saskatoon Sexual Assault and Information Centre, the Battlefords and Area Sexual Assault Centre, Lloydminster Sexual Assault and Information Centre, the Regina Women's Community Centre and Sexual Assault Line, and a sexual assault worker with the Prince Albert Mobile Crisis Unit Co-operative.

Services for the victims of personal and family violence were provided by the West Central Crisis Centre in Kindersley, the North East Crisis Intervention Centre in Melfort, the South West Crisis Services in Swift Current and the Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours in Yorkton. A second support group for battered women in Saskatchewan began operation in Regina, sponsored by the Regina Family Service Bureau. This program complements the support group for battered women sponsored by the Saskatoon Family Service Bureau.

Transition housing services were provided by the Regina Transition Women's Society, the Regina Native Women's Association (Residential Resource Centre), the Saskatoon Interval House, the Moose Jaw Women's Transition Association, the Association of West Central Native Women in Prince Albert, the Battlefords Interval House in North Battleford, and Shelwin House, Yorkton Women In Need Inc.

Crisis accommodation for battered women and children was provided by safe shelter programs in Regina, operated by the YWCA Isobel Johnson Centre and in La Ronge, operated by the La Ronge Native Women's Organization Inc., and by a safe house project in Melfort, sponsored by the North East Crisis intervention Centre.

Trusteeship

Trusteeship Services for clients unable to manage their budgets were provided by the Welfare Rights Centre in Regina, the Saskatoon Self-help Council, the Prince Albert and District Community Service Centre Family Financial Counselling Program, and the Moose Jaw Community Action Society.

Non-Governmental Services

Counselling and Family Supports

Personal counselling and support services were provided by a number of native family service organizations including the Metis Society of Saskatoon, the Regina Native Women's Association (Community Centre), the Lestock Women's Centre, the Native Coordinating Council (Family Services) in Prince Albert, Buffalo Narrows Native Women, the Dene Kwan Self-Help Council and Housing Corporation (Family Support Centre) in La Loche, the La Ronge Native Women's Organization (Family Crisis Centre), Fort Qu'Appelle Ka-pa-chee Centre (Parent Aide), the Association of Metis and Non-status Indians Riel Local of Regina (Parent Aide) and the Payakowak (They Are Alone Working Committee) of Regina.

Family support was provided by native friendship centres in Yorkton, Meadow Lake, Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, the Battlefords, Saskatoon, Regina, La Ronge and Carlyle.

Counselling and Family services were provided by the family service bureaux in Saskatoon and Regina, the Catholic Family Service Society in Regina and Catholic Family Services of Saskatoon, and the Minto Family Life Education Centre in Moose Jaw.

Other counselling services were offered by the Cornwall Street Tutoring Project and the SCEP Centre Society of Regina, the Saskatoon Society for the Protection of Children, the Humboldt District No. 44 Home Care Program (Family Counselling Program), the Maple Creek Community Centre Society, the Merici Centre in Regina, and Christian Counselling Services in Saskatoon.

A crisis nursery program was also provided by the Saskatoon Society for the Protection of Children.

Prevention

Services were provided by the Big Sisters and Big Brothers organizations in Regina, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, North Battleford, Estevan and Lloydminster.

Youth activity services were provided by the John Howard Society organizations in Prince Albert and Moose Jaw.

Local and Provincial Coordination

Local service coordination organizations included the Society for the Involvement of Good Neighbours (SIGN) in Yorkton and the SMILE Services Organization in Estevan.

The Saskatchewan Human Services Association and the Saskatchewan Foster Parents Association, each provided provincial coordination services to their members.

Management Self Review

The management self-review process for non-government organizations, as monitored by the Department, continued to assist boards of directors and managers to develop a frame of reference against which organizational, administrative, fiscal and service delivery practices could be assessed. This process served to help organizations meet their commitments to providing accountable, responsive and well managed programs.

The department assisted volunteer board members and managers of non-governmental organizations to participate in workshops and seminars hosted by the Saskatchewan Human Services Association. These served as a means of providing the required assistance to establish enhanced management practices.

Other Services

The department supported hundreds of employment projects, the establishment of many child day care operations and provided funding for seniors' activity centres (including several seniors' transportation projects) across Saskatchewan during the year.

The department also funded and worked closely with many non-governmental agencies which provided services for the benefit of disabled persons. These are described in the following Rehabilitation Services section of this Annual Report.

Young Offender Services

The introduction to Saskatchewan during 1984 of the federal *Young Offenders Act* had a major impact on the social services system, as it pertained to youth. The most dramatic effect was emphasis placed on the development of services specifically oriented to the 12-17 year old young offender.

The Act established that young persons who committed offences were to be held accountable and responsible for their actions, and society would have the right to be protected. It recognized that young persons had rights and freedoms, including those stated in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and in the Canadian Bill of Rights. This acknowledged that young persons have the right of the least possible interference with personal freedom, consistent with the protection of society. It permitted young offenders to be dealt with through alternatives to court proceedings and institutional confinement, as means of being accountable. It also recognized that parents were responsible for the care and supervision of their children.

Alternative Measures

Alternative measures refers to procedures whereby individuals who would otherwise proceed to trial were dealt with through community-based alternatives delivered by non-governmental organizations. This was a non-criminal procedure providing for the referral of offenders who were accused of committing certain categories of offences to a specifically designated program, prior to and in place of adjudication.

While this was an alternative to court processing, it was a formal procedure, visible and publicly accountable, whereby a voluntary settlement of an alleged offence was developed involving the victim and the community. Ten alternative measures programs operated under the *Young Offenders Act* during the year, in Moose Jaw, Saskatoon, Prince Albert, Fort Qu'Appelle, Regina, North Battleford, Meadow Lake, Buffalo Narrows, La Ronge and Estevan.

Judicial Interim Release

The *Young Offenders Act* provided that a Youth Court Judge or Justice could release a young person prior to disposition rather than remanding that offender to custody. This is called Judicial Interim Release.

Workers provided assessments to the Court on young offenders' identifying possible responses for release, background information on the offender, and ability of individuals willing to supervise and care for youth as "responsible" adults. When considered necessary, intensive supervision for offenders was provided by the department in Prince Albert, Saskatoon and Regina.

Probation Services

The duties of youth workers under the Act also included supervision of offenders bound by probation orders, preparation and presentation to the Court of pre-disposition and progress reports, attendance in Court to provide information and advice, and such other duties as the Provincial Director required.

This was the major responsibility of the community component of the Young Offenders Program and was provided to all Courts and communities through the regional service delivery system.

Community Alternative Services

The Community Alternative Services Program provided the Court with the alternative of sentencing an offender to a specific community program rather than to a period of custody or probation. The Program gave the victim of an offence an opportunity to participate in the proceedings to the extent desirable, with a view to recovering where possible an appropriate compensation for illegal actions against a person or property. The program also provided compensation through community service to society as a whole, where there was no identifiable victim. The Program consisted of Community Service Orders, Personal Service Orders and Compensation Orders.

Open Custody

Open Custody was defined in the *Young Offenders Act* as "a community residential centre, group home, child care institution, a forest or wilderness camp or any other like place or facility". This program required young persons to live in a supervised "away from home" environment (the custody component). In Open Custody, youth were also involved in regular school programs, community recreation programs and regular employment (the open component).

Young Offender Services

Open custody was provided by Dales House in Regina and Kilburn Hall in Saskatoon; the department's Roy Wilson Centre at Sedley (a treatment cottage) and the Community Youth Residences in Saskatoon, North Battleford, and Creighton; departmental Youth Camps in Kenosee and Prince Albert; and, by the Alex Bishop Child Care Centre at Green Lake, Oskietawin Group Home in Sandy Bay and Ranch Ehrlo Society in Regina (non-governmental group homes) during the year under review.

During the year, the Salvation Army Youth Resource Centre came on stream in Regina and the Roy Wilson Centre at Sedley was closed.

Secure Custody

Under the terms of the *Young Offenders Act,* secure custody means "custody in a place or facility designated by the Lieutenant Governor in Council of a province, for the secure containment or restraint of young persons".

During the year, The Paul Dojack Youth Centre in Regina, Kilburn Hall in Saskatoon and the North Battleford Youth Centre provided secure custody and detention services for offenders.

Major facility expansion and renovation programs were carried out at each of the three centres during the year.

Child Day Care

The department provided assistance to groups and individuals that received approval to develop day care services. Newly licensed day care centres and approved family day care homes qualified for one time start-up grants to assist with initial development. A $20 per space per month operating grant was introduced in 1986-87 to assist with ongoing costs associated with operating a centre. Approved homes received an annual equipment grant of $50 per space. Special supervision and equipment grants were made available to those facilities that provided care to children with special needs. Consultation and support services were provided to those in the process of developing or delivering day care services.

The department monitored and approved family day care homes run by private individuals in their own residences. During the year under review, 360 such homes accommodated over 2,000 children.

Day care centres provided care to children between 18 months and 12 years of age. As of March 1, 1987 there were 3,698 day care spaces in 92 centres across the province.

In order to offset the cost of fees for day care services, the department provided an income-tested subsidy of up to $235 per month per child to assist parents who met eligibility requirements.

The department licensed the McKenzie Infant Care Centre in September of 1986. This is a pilot project in which the teen mothers attending the Balfour Tutoring Project could use this special infant day care centre.

Services for Senior Citizens

The Saskatchewan Senior's Bureau provided information and coordination services on behalf of senior citizens of the province.

Its Director chaired an inter-departmental committee composed of representatives from a large number of government departments and agencies, to help coordinate programs serving seniors. It advised government on program and service issues affecting seniors and on the needs of seniors generally. The Bureau also consulted with seniors' organizations throughout the province and across the country on an ongoing basis.

The Seniors' Bureau operated a Seniors' Outreach Service, a toll-free telephone enquiry line providing seniors with information.

The department provided capital and operating funds to non-profit, community based seniors programs and projects during the year. Over 400 seniors' activity centers, recreational and educational programs, and transportation projects received support.

The Seniors' Bureau became part of the new Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment during the year.

Rehabilitation Services

The department remained responsible for providing and facilitating community-based services for persons who were physically disabled or mentally handicapped. This was done to ensure that their physical, emotional and social needs were met and to assist many to live and function independently as possible within their own communities.

Social Work and Community Therapy

The department provided case management, individual program planning, staff training, general consultation and community board support services across Saskatchewan. Social Workers handled 3,381 individual client cases.

Rehabilitation Services offices were located in Prince Albert, Melfort, La Ronge, North Battleford, Saskatoon, Rosetown, Regina, Weyburn, Estevan, Yorkton, Swift Current, and La Ronge.

Family Support Programs

Family Support Services helped parents and their children through the initial adjustment to disabilities; to diminish or eliminate obstacles to normal family functioning which were caused by a disability; to assist families and the community service system in establishing a developmental model for normal, school-entry aged children; and, to assist families in making appropriate planning decisions about educational, housing and life-style issues at appropriate times during development.

Respite services were provided by Resource Homes in Saskatoon and Regina. Families who did not have access to these homes gained access to respite services through the Outreach Program.

The department made limited use of the preventive services provision of *The Family Services Act* to provide services in the parental homes of children with severe disabilities, particularly in cases of imminent possibility of the children coming into care.

Early Childhood Intervention Services

The Early Childhood Intervention Program provided home-based training and support to parents of children from birth to five years of age with developmental disabilities. This program was delivered through regular home visits. It helped families and prevented children coming into care. The program was administered by non-profit, mainly parent-controlled community boards. Some local funding supplemented the related costs.

A provincial council associated with the program provided an effective forum for the discussion of issues.

Residential Services for Adults

The primary objective in providing residential services for adults with mental retardation was to develop a broad spectrum of options promoting the least restrictive setting possible in each case.

Fifty-five related group homes located in 26 communities accommodated 363 adults who were mentally retarded. Fifty-eight adults who were physically disabled resided in seven group homes. New homes were opened in Preeceville, Regina, Swift Current, and Moosomin.

Approved Private-service Homes provided the degree of care appropriate to meet individual client needs. During the year, 222 homes accommodated 490 persons across Saskatchewan. The department also funded a program which provided respite for home operators, enabling them to arrange for relief staff for reasons of annual or emergency leave.

During 1986, Regulations pursuant to *The Residential Services Act (1985)* were passed which allowed the department to issue one group home lisence for all Social Services clientele (both adults and children), enter into contracts with group homes funded on a fee-for-service basis, and be responsible for administration, programming and licensing of that portion of the private-service home program that provides services to individuals with mental or physical disabilities.

The Supportive Living Program provided the necessary support services to enable adults with mild, mental retardation to reside in their own homes or apartments. With the addition of a new three space program in Shaunavan there was a total of 137 spaces available within 16 Saskatchewan communities.

Rehabilitation Services

Residential Placements for Children

Residential placements for children were used only if support services to families didn't generate desired results. There were 65 children in foster homes and 17 spaces in group home programs at the end of the fiscal year.

There were also 15 children along with 26 adults in 19 small hospital locations as of March 1. The Small Hospitals Program was funded by the Saskatchewan Hospital Services Plan and jointly administered by the Social Services and Health Departments. Persons accommodated by this program primarily required 24-hour skilled nursing care, had parents or guardians willing to maintain a family relationship, and should have been able to attend a developmental centre educational program where these were available.

Institutional Services

A main objective of the department was to allow persons with disabilities to live as independently as possible through the supports and aids they required. The department did, however, provide institutional care for some persons who required continuing supervisory, medical and nursing care and who could not be maintained in their communities at the time. Training programs were provided for clients at both Valley View Centre in Moose Jaw and North Park Centre in Prince Albert, to enhance the functioning levels of residents and to improve their quality of life.

A number of programmatic changes were made in the areas of individualized program plans, staff training, standards and day programs, and resident rights have been reviewed to conform with *The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

Activity Centres

Locally operated activity centres provided adult day vocational programs for persons with mental retardation and motor or sensory limitations. Programming stressed basic living skills, socialization and recreation, so that clients could develop sufficient social competence to function in a community setting.

Forty new spaces were added during the year to the activity centre system, which then provided 793 spaces within 17 communities across the province.

The Vida McDonald Centre in North Battleford received funding to expand its facility.

Funding for activity centres is cost-shared with the federal government, under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Sheltered Workshops

Sheltered Workshops provided specialized training opportunities for adult clients with fair motor development or minimal sensory limitations. This program focused on training and production. Clients developed work and social skills until they were able either to reach their potential level of independence or obtain competitive employment. A portion of the profit realized by workshops was returned to clients.

Capital funding was provided to build two new centres in Gravelbourg and Maple Creek. New spaces were added to the existing program in Moose Jaw.

There were a total of 1,034 workshop spaces in 24 communities across the province at the end of the year under review.

Sheltered workshop funding is cost-shared with the federal government under the Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons Agreement.

Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons

The province undertook to provide a comprehensive vocational rehabilitation program within the framework of the federal/provincial Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons Agreement, for persons with mental or physical disabilities. This involved provisions for assessment, counselling and restoration services, vocational training and employment placement for eligible persons. Program consultation and staff development were available for rehabilitation agencies and vocational counsellors.

The provincial coordinator of this program chairs a Training and Selection Committee which met regularly to review and determine eligibility of potential clients referred by many other agenices. The departments of Advanced Education and Manpower as well as the federal department of Employment and Immigration are represented on this Committee. Referrals to this Committee are made by provincial government departments and community referral agencies representing the target groups of the Program.

A total of 656 applications were approved under this Program during the year.

Rehabilitation Services

Total number of applications approved	656
Assessments	
Educational	3
Psychological (private)	19
Psychological (Wascana Hospital)	1
Vocational — other	6
Saskatchewan Abilities Council	120
Wascana	14
Work assessments	65
Other	8
Job Readiness Training	
Adjustment to blindness training	17
Adult basic education	51
Basic skills training	13
Driver training	5
Independent residency training	1
Life skills course	36
Other	1
Tutoring	11
Work experience S.A.C.	32
Work prep S.A.C.	23
Post Secondary Training	
Business college	5
Correspondence course	3
Community college — out-of-province	21
Community college Saskatchewan	11
Kelsey Institute	13
Northern Institute of Technology	8
Other	13
Saskatchewan Technical Institute	13
University (out-of-province)	8
University of Regina	25
University of Saskatchewan	46
Wascana Institute	23
Special Services	
Mobility and communication equipment	8
Medical restoration	8
Other	6
Special equipment and tools	9
Special transportation	3
VRDP Training-on-the-Job	
Private trades	4
Student work experience	5
Training-on-the-Job	23
Breakdown of Disabilities	
Hearing impaired	80
Mental retardation	149
Substance abuse	46
Learning disabilities	27
Psychiatric disabilities	64
Visual impairment	50
Mobility disabilities	50
Other physical disabilities	181

Employment Support Program

The Employment Support Program provided funding to a number of agencies offering a range of services for persons who were mentally or physically disabled or social disadvantaged, and who were eligible for benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. These services included counselling and placement in subsidized industries and transitional employment situations.

Eighteen projects were funded under this Program during the year. These included placement projects offering eligible clients employment in the private, public and non-governmental sectors; subsidization of individual positions within six existing non-profit industries and businesses which provided long-term employment alternatives for individuals unable to compete on the regular job market; and transitional employment projects within four existing organizations offering individuals a chance to develop job skills and work histories and thus proceed into the regular work place.

Transitional Employment	
Funded positions	25
Persons employed	111
Work Preparation/Placement Projects	
ESP subsidized employment placements	341
Non-subsidized employment placements	530
Subsidized Industries	
Funded positions	29.5
Individuals employed	104

Income Security

Income Security

The department administered a number of programs during the year which provided income support to individuals and families who for various reasons including unemployment, disability, ill health or low income, could not meet their basic needs.

The department also either administered or was involved with a number of employment related programs as part of the government's overall efforts to help develop employment opportunities across the province.

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan

The Saskatchewan Assistance Plan continued as the province's basic income support program. It was cost-shared with the federal government under the Canada Assistance Plan.

Under this Program, the department provided funds to meet the costs of food, shelter, utilities, clothing and supplementary health services for individuals and families who, for various reasons, had insufficient funds to meet basic needs.

Residents in need could apply for and receive benefits, as well as related information on client rights and responsibilities, at any of the department's district offices or at the local social services unit offices in Moose Jaw and Prince Albert.

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Financial Cases by Employment Status March 1987

Employment Status	March 1987 Cases	Percentage of Total
Employed	4,621	15.1
Unemployed		
Fully Employable	10,260	33.6
Partially Employable	4,047	13.2
Undergoing Training	2,436	8.0
Unemployable (includes persons who are temporarily or permanently unemployable)	9,180	30.1
Total	30,544	100.0

Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Expenditures by Source 1986-87

		Percentage of Total
Municipal Governments	$ 2,032,013	1
Federal Government	102,723,672	50
Provincial Government	99,315,222	49
Total	$204,070,907	100%

Sample Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Payment March 1987

Single parent (temporarily unemployable) with two children, renting a house

Basic Allowance (for food, clothing, personal and household needs)	$472.00
Rent (provincial average)	340.00
Utilities (electricity, telephone and heat)	79.00
Total budget need	$891.00
Less income:	
Family Allowance (2 x 31.96)	63.92
Monthly entitlement	827.08
Less:	
Family Income Plan payment (2 x $100)	200.00
Saskatchewan Assistance Plan payment	$627.08

Income Security

Sample Saskatchewan Assistance Plan Payment March 1987

Married couple (part-time employed) with three children, renting a house and receiving assistance for three months or more.

Basic Allowance (for food, clothing, personal and household needs)	757.00
Rent (provincial average)	357.00
Utilities (electricity, telephone and heat)	76.00
Total budget need	$1,190.00
Less income:	
Family Allowance (3 x 31.96)	95.88
Employment Income = $400.00	
Exemption (25% of need) = $297.50	
Earned income deducted	102.50
Monthly entitlement	$ 991.62
Less:	
Family Income Plan (3 x $100)	300.00
Saskatchewan Assistance Plan payment	691.62

Family Income Plan

This program provided monthly income supplements to low-income families with children under 18 years of age. Eligibility was based on annual family income and assets.

During March of 1987, supplements were provided to 7,678 low-income families compared with 7,337 a year earlier.

Saskatchewan Income Plan

This program provided monthly supplementary payments to persons 65 years of age and over. Benefits depended upon the amount of the federal Guaranteed Income Supplement received. Eligibility was automatically assessed when a senior applied for the Guaranteed Income Supplement and no application was required in order to qualify for benefits under the Saskatchewan Income Plan.

Benefits were provided to 26,840 low-income senior citizens of the province during March of 1987, compared with 24,213 the previous year.

A new *Saskatchewan Income Plan Act,* introduced in 1986 clarified the intent of the program, and eligibility requirements.

Employment Development

Saskatchewan Employment Development Program

The department continued administration of the Saskatchewan Employment Development Program during the year, as part of the government's overall job creation strategy.

This Program served as a means of providing productive employment opportunities for employable persons receiving benefits under the Saskatchewan Assistance Plan. Its purpose was to provide them with work experience and job-related skills and facilitate their continuing participation in the work force.

Saskatchewan business, local government and non-profit employers whose projects were approved under the Program, were eligible for subsidies equal to the provincial minimum wage and related employee benefits for each new job created. Local-government bodies and non-profit organizations were eligible for some essential overhead expenses, as well.

To qualify for funding, employers had to demonstrate:

- that the work to be created would not displace employment which would have existed without program support;
- that meaningful work experience and job-related skills would be provided and existing employees' skills would be considered;
- that projects would provide between 20 and 26 weeks of full-time, continuous employment; and,
- that projects would contribute to the social and economic betterment of the province.

Employment Development

The department operated a number of employer information offices throughout the province to administer this Program. Clients were referred to employers by Assessment and Placement Units within departmental district offices.

An initial $12.8 million was allocated to the Program. It created 2,047 jobs for 2,500 clients during the year.

New Careers Corporation

An additional 96 clients were hired under the New Careers Corporation and carried out activities as contracted through the Department of Parks and Renewable Resources.

Saskatchewan Skills Development Program

In co-operation with the Department of Advanced Education and Manpower, hundreds of clients were referred to a wide range of classes offered through adult basic education and pre-employment skills development, within the provincial community college and technical training systems. This was accomplished under the Saskatchewan Skills Development Program.

Approximately 2,400 students enrolled in one or more classes under this Program. Of these, approximately 75 per cent were enrolled in Adult Basic Education or technical vocational programs. The remaining 25 per cent were enrolled in community-based programs such as career planning, employment readiness and life skills courses across the province.

Assessment and Placement Units

The department's Assessment and Placement Units continued to provide regional referral services to the Saskatchewan Skills and Employment Development Programs, the New Careers Corporation, Sask. Access Youth Employment and Winter Works, as well as other employment enhancement services.

These units maintained an inventory of fully employable clients receiving social assistance, so they could be placed within the various employment, training and educational program streams.

Internal Support Services

Federal-Provincial Arrangements

The Federal-Provincial Arrangements Branch was responsible for the cost-sharing of programs under the Canada Assistance Plan, the Vocational Rehabilitation for Disabled Persons Agreement and the Young Offenders Agreement. It also administered cost-sharing arrangements involving criminal legal aid and charge-backs to the federal Department of Indian Affairs for services provided to treaty Indians.

Other areas of responsibility included: liaison and coordination of activities undertaken with several federal departments and the social services departments of other provinces; administration of provincial responsibilities under the Excise Tax Act; preparation of briefing materials and correspondence on federal/provincial and inter-provincial issues; participation in federal-provincial working groups; and liaison between other Saskatchewan departments and the federal government on cost-sharing matters.

During the year under review, the department received $177,030,828 in federal revenue. Of this, $15,785,931 represented revenue collected on behalf of other provincial government departments.

Strategic Planning and Communication

This Branch provided overall strategic planning and policy-making support for the department, as well as project coordination and other developmental supports for the Deputy Minister and the Minister.

Long-term planning, short-term issues management, policy review and development, and program design and evaluation were some of the responsibilities of this Branch. These were coordinated in consultation with district directors and other program divisions and branches within the department. The Branch was also responsible for development of the department's communication policy and strategy.

Human Resources

The Human Resources Branch provided coordination, direction and expertise in the development and management of human resources across the organization. It guided personnel recruitment and selection, classification, contract interpretation, employee benefits and labour relations. Advice and direction were provided to all divisions on such matters as manpower planning, employment equity, performance appraisal, human performance and employee counselling.

In co-operation with the Public Service Commission, a comprehensive educational leave and tuition rebate program was administered. The Branch also coordinated and delivered an extensive in-service training program, particularly to address new training needs within the Young Offenders Program.

This Branch assisted the Public Service Commission in collective bargaining with both the Saskatchewan Government Employees Union and the Canadian Union of Public Employees.

Support Services Division

The Support Services Division was organized into four branches to provide administrative and financial support to the department.

The Comptroller's Branch controlled and safeguarded public funds by developing and maintaining financial systems in the areas of revenue, accounts receivable, payroll, invoice processing, trust accounts and banking. Consultative services were provided to evaluate, revise and develop financial management controls in other branches and divisions. The integrity and quality of financial controls in program divisions and branches were monitored to ensure departmental standards were being met.

The Budget Management Branch managed the department's fiscal planning, forecasting and controls through preparation of the annual budget, monitoring budgetary forecasting and controlling departmental spending as a result of the forecasts.

The Office Services Branch maintained an inventory of departmentally held assets, controlled purchasing, co-ordinated space requirements, maintained a stationary stockroom, managed departmental records and controlled the design and acquisition of departmental forms.

The Computer Systems Branch co-ordinated the development, maintenance and enhancement of all automated systems in the department. Notable among these systems was the Client Index which served as a registry of all the department's clients and program involvements.

Fiscal Addendum

Vote 036 — Saskatchewan Social Services Gross Expenditures		
Program Services		
Administration		
Support Services	9,620,551	
Program Administration	2,903,645	12,524,196
Regional Operations		20,981,427
Family Services		1,975,076
Day Care		862,771
Child Care Institutions		1,837,534
Young Offenders Institutions		7,345,187
Rehabilitation Services		2,680,111
Residents for the Mentally Handicapped		
North Park	3,973,178	
Valley View Centre	16,761,007	20,734,185
Grants to Local Authorities and Other Third Parties		
Grants to Day Care Centres and Family Day Care Homes		1,306,785
Grants for Community Services		7,020,012
Grants and Allowances for Services to the Handicapped		8,438,653
Payments to Local Social Services Units		1,455,522
Grants for Senior Citizens		1,195,794
Payments to or on Behalf of Individuals		
Allowances for Day Care		10,318,199
Child Care		16,580,896
Payments to the Saskatchewan Legal Aid Commission		6,264,750
Income Security		
Public Assistance		
Saskatchewan Assistance Plan	204,070,168	
Categorical Allowances	739	204,070,907
Family Income Plan		19,338,039
Saskatchewan Income Plan — Senior Citizens' Benefits		10,738,713
Sub total — Vote 036		**355,668,757**
Vote 065 — Employment Development Agency Gross Expenditure — (Social Services Portion)		
Saskatchewan Employment Development Programs		9,603,235
Grants to the Employment Support Program		2,122,390
Saskatchewan Skills Development Program		5,758,941
Sub total — Vote 065		**17,484,566**
Total Social Services Gross Expenditure		**373,153,323**